(d) what is the extent to which the interests of Indian Airlines and Air India will be affected by the operation of foreign air taxi operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The permit has been issued for operation of service under the air taxi guidelines contained in Aeronautical Information Circular No. 24 of 1990 and related instructions issued from time to time.

(c) M/s. Jet Airways have proposed that they may be owned by Tait Winds Ltd. a company incorporated in the Isle of Man where Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways may hold equity shares of 20% each and the balance would be held by Non-Resident Indian.

(d) Indian Airlines and Air India will face competition.

Civil Airport at Amreli, Gujarat

2107. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for establishing a civil airport at Amreli in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the construction of Airport Terminal building, runway and Taxi-Track has been completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to operate daily flight directly between Bombay-Surat, Bhavnagar-Amreli;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The airstrip at Amreli belongs to the Government of Gujarat. National Airports Authority has no plan at present to upgrade facilities at this airstrip.

(c) to (e) Due to Commercial and operational reasons Vayudoot has no plans at present to operate on Bombay-Surat, Bhavnagar-Amreli Sectors.

New Aviation Policy

2108. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new aviation policy; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to ensure safe air journey; proper maintenance of aircrafts and curb heavy expenditure.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A liberalised policy has been adopted on operations of air taxis: Open Sky Policy is in force on carriage of cargo by Indian and foreign air carriers and single window clearance system has been introduced for operation of tourist charters. A bill has also been introduced in the Lok Sabha to repeal the Air Corporations Act. 1953.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines have adequate facilities for maintenance of their fleet. So far as air taxi operators are concerned, most of them have facilities for minor maintenance. Major maintenance is done either abroad or at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

Only aircrafts having certificate of airworthiness issued by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are allowed to fly.

Construction of Airport at Jalandhar

2109. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Jalandhar in view of the long-standing demand of Punjabi immigrants settled abroad;

(b) if so, when the construction is likely to commence; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Due to commercial and financial constraints, National Airports Authority has no plan at present to construct an airport at Jalandhar.

International Flights from Amritsar

2110. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to start the international flights from Amritsar as normaley has returned to Punjab; and

(b) the details of the flights proposed to be started from Amritsar alongwith their frequencies?